
ORKNEY SOLAR FARM, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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COMMENTS RECEIVED: EIA PHASE

NO.	DATE OF COMMENT, FORMAT OF COMMENT, NAME OF ORGANISATION/I&AP	COMMENT/ISSUE	RESPONSE FROM EAP/APPLICANT/SPECIALIST
LATE COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE SCOPING REPORT			
1.	Seoka Lekota Biodiversity and Conservation Department of Environmental Affairs Letter: 27-09-2016	1) PURPOSE To provide you with comments on the above mentioned Scoping Report for the proposed Orkney Solar farm, North West Province. 2) BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS The directorate: Biodiversity Conservation received and evaluated the draft Scoping Report for the above mentioned project and the following were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The project site is located within the extent of portion 7 and 21 of the farm Wolvehuis 114. The site is located approximately 11.8km south west from the Orkney, North West Province. » The associated infrastructure of the development includes a substation and a 132kV power lines that will be connected to an existing Eskom National Grid. » The proposed wind farm falls within the North West Provinces Terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Areas (T_CBA) but it falls outside of the aquatic Critical Biodiversity Area. » The development falls into within a Grassland biome and Dry Highveld Grassland bioregion. 	<p>The entire project site is located within a Terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) due to the presence of the Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland which is classified as endangered. However, the CBA will not be significantly affected by the Orkney Solar Farm due to the current transformed condition of the veld and vegetation as well as the low diversity and potential for movement of faunal species between the habitats associated with the Vaal River and the dry grassland habitats. Refer to Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix D).</p> <p>The developer has considered all sensitive water features within the facility, including the avoidance of wetlands, the floodplain and drainage line to ensure that the solar farm will have no impact on the sensitive features. Refer to Appendix K for an illustration of the facility layout.</p> <p>The recommendations made by DEA: Biodiversity and Conservation have been considered by the specialist and Applicant, and have been addressed in the EIA report.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The vegetation type of the site is Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland with Endangered conservation status and this corresponds with National List of Ecosystems that are threatened and require protection (NEMBA). » The project is within the Middle Vaal Water Management Area (WMA). » The development will have impacts on the sensitive features of the site including 2 wetlands, drainage line and flood line associated with the Vaal River. » The current land use is mostly livestock, animal grazing and about 50% of the site has been transformed by cultivation practices and intense grazing pressure. » SANBI Database shows that 14 species are considered as conservation worthy that could occur on the site. The species are protected under Transvaal Nature Conservation Ordinary and Bophuthatswana Nature Conservation Act (BNCA). » The presence of wetlands, floodplain, riparian fringes and the Vaal River contributes to the high number of species biodiversity of the site so these features are important to maintain the species biodiversity of the site as they provide specific habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All three grid connection alternatives have been assessed and considered in various specialist fields to determine the suitability of the alternatives from an environmental perspective. All three alternatives have been assessed as acceptable for the development as no sensitive features will be impacted on. However, as Alternative 1 (i.e. a turn-in turn-out connection to the existing Mercury-Vaal Reefs Ten 132kV power line) requires the shortest length of power line (~92m) to establish a connection to the national grid and will be the least intrusive alternative it is nominated as the preferred grid connection alternative. Alternative 1 is also the preferred alternative from a technical perspective. Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA report for more detail. » The ecological sensitive features such as the floodplain, depression, drainage line and the seepage has been delineated by the ecologist, and appropriate buffer zones have been applied and avoided by the development footprint of the solar farm. The feature and buffer are no-go areas. Refer to Chapter 8 of the EIA report for more detail.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Fifteen (15) faunal species of conservation significance have a potential to occur on the site based on the type of habitats that exist on site. » One species recoded by the SARCA 2014. The Giant Girdled Lizard is classified as vulnerable and it has a potential of occurring on the site due to the presence of habitat occurring on site. » The flood plains and the riparian fringes associated with the Vaal River are regarded as potential important Avifaunal habitats. » Nine (9) avifaunal species listed in IUCN are known to occur at the development site and most of these listed species that occur are associated with aquatic and wetland habitat types. » The occurring Tussock grassland along gradual slopes is preferred habitats for avifaunal species. <p>3) RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>After reviewing and evaluating the potential impacts of the project on flora and faunal species including the avifaunal species, it is recommended that the following be included on the final Environmental Impact Assessment report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The grid connections and power line route alternatives with the least impacts to the biodiversity sensitive must be considered during the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The mitigation hierarchy and a mitigation strategy has been applied to the solar farm facility layout in order to ensure that no detrimental biodiversity impacts are associated with the development. This process included the avoidance of high ecologically sensitive areas (i.e. avoidance of all sensitive drainage features), as well as archaeological features (i.e. avoidance of all significant heritage sites including graves and a cairn) fields. Refer to Chapter 2 and Chapter 8 for more detail. » No Tussock Grassland has been identified within the development footprint of the solar farm as per the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix D). All sensitive avifaunal areas have been identified and considered within the Avifaunal Impact Assessment Report (Appendix E) and are avoided by the development footprint of the solar farm. » The North West Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural Development (READ) has been informed of the review period of the EIA report and an electronic copy has been submitted. The date of the last day for the submission of any comments on the EIA report

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		<p>EIA phase and submitted as the preferred alternative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The Ecological sensitive features such as Floodplain, Depression, Drainage line and the seepage must be delineated on the ground by the ecologist, appropriate buffer zone applied and be regarded as "no go areas." » Mitigation hierarchy in minimizing biodiversity impact must be implemented. » Tussock grassland along the gradual slopes must be regarded as no go area as it is a preferred habitat for avifaunal species. » The North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development must be consulted and their comments must be submitted to us during the EIA phase. » An ecologist must be appointed to further study the functionality of the wetlands, seepage, drainage line and flood plain and the report must be submitted to this directorate during the EIA phase. <p>4) CONCLUSION</p> <p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation noted that the project is within Terrestrial Critical Biodiversity Area due to the vegetation type Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland with Endangered conservation status. The project must be</p>	<p>has also been communicated. Refer to Appendix C for proof of correspondence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The ecologist has taken into consideration the current state and functionality of the wetlands, seepage, drainage line and flood plain within the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix D). The Ecological Impact Assessment Report has been included as Appendix D of the EIA Report and has been submitted to DEA: Biodiversity for review. <p>Due to long-term grazing practises by the landowner the project site is no longer in a natural state and as such the development of the Orkney Solar Farm will not have a detrimental impact on the remaining vegetation (which has been infringed upon by alien invasive species).</p>

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		restricted to a transformed or disturbed area to limit impacts on the remaining vegetation. Therefore the directorate recommends that the above mentioned recommendations be included in the final EIA phase.	
2.	<p>Ms Portia Krisjan Director: Environmental Quality Management</p> <p>North West Province: Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development</p> <p>Letter: 12-10-2016</p>	<p>1) The draft Scoping Report which was submitted for comment in respect of the above-mentioned proposed development and received by this Department on 23 August 2016, including a site inspection undertaken by the Department official Mr. Sammy Mabula with Mr. M Stander on 12 September 2016 has reference.</p> <p>2) The Department has reviewed the draft Scoping Report and has no objection to the submission of the final Scoping Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs on condition that the following issues will be considered and addressed in the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>a) All comments received from the registered interested and affected parties must be addressed and incorporated in the final Scoping.</p> <p>b) The proof of newspaper advertisement that was placed on the newspaper is not contained in the draft Scoping Report. Detailed information of public participation process that was undertaken, including proof of newspaper</p>	<p>All comments received from the registered I&APs have been addressed and incorporated within the final Scoping report. The final Scoping report has been accepted by DEA on 19 October 2016. All comments received during the Scoping Phase and the EIA Phase are included in Appendix C of the EIA report.</p> <p>Proof of the newspaper advertisement placed in the Klerksdorp Record on 19 August 2016 has been included in Appendix C2. Detailed information of public participation process undertaken during the Scoping Phase and the EIA Phase have been included in Chapter 4 of the EIA report and Appendix C.</p> <p>The floodplain and riparian fringe have been considered in both the Ecological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix D) and the Avifaunal Impact Assessment Report (Appendix E). Appropriate buffers have been recommended by the specialists and applied to the features to ensure the conservation thereof. Significant archaeological sites including (graves and a cairn) were also identified</p>

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		<p>advertisement must be included in the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>c) The proposed development site is located near the Vaal River, and the site is consisting of flood plain and wetlands. Appropriate buffer should be considered between the proposed development and the Vaal River, including any other sensitive areas within the property. This information should also be conveyed to the layout plan of the site.</p> <p>d) It has been noted that specialist studies included in the draft Scoping Report were conducted at the desktop level. Detailed specialist studies which include field survey must be undertaken during the Environmental Impact Assessment phase, and they must contain recent site specific information.</p> <p>3) Please contact this Department if you have any queries regarding this correspondence.</p>	<p>within the Archaeological Impact Assessment Report (Appendix F). All areas of high sensitivity have been avoided by the Orkney Solar Farm development footprint and will therefore not have any detrimental impacts on the identified sensitive features. Refer to Chapter 8 and Appendix K for a description and illustration of the optimised facility layout.</p> <p>Detailed specialist studies have been undertaken as part of the EIA report in various fields, including ecology, avifauna, and archaeology, traffic, visual and social. All studies included an assessment of preliminary layout provided by the developer. These studies included field surveys. Site specific information has been included in the studies to ensure the accuracy of the information and the assessment of the solar farm environmental impacts. The impact on palaeontology and soils does not form part of the EIA phase (as was considered in the Scoping Phase) due to the lack of fossiliferous geology within the project site and the low agricultural potential. This was accepted by DEA in the Acceptance of Scoping on 19 October 2016.</p>
WATER USE ACTIVITIES			
3.	M Mgwambani Director: Water Regulation	The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) would like to acknowledge the receipt of the above mentioned	The water source for the solar farm will be from an existing borehole located within the project site (including potable water). The water requirements

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	<p>Department of Water and Sanitation</p> <p>Letter: 03-11-2016</p>	<p>application; however the applicant should ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The applicant should clearly indicate which water sources they use. All water abstraction from the resource should be authorized in terms of section 21 of National Water Act 36 of 1998, <i>(a) taking water from a water resource; (b) storing water. Provide proof of agreement with the supplier.</i> » The applicant should promote water conservation in all aspects of the project. » The applicant should indicate the source of portable water for drinking purposes and also provide proof of agreement with the supplier who will supply water to the proposed development. All water suppliers should comply with the SANS 241. » The applicant should indicate the type of sanitation that will be used on site during construction and operations. » All hazardous equipment and materials should be kept and stored on a concrete lined surface with bund walls and in such a manner that any spillages can be contained or reclaimed without causing any impact to the environment, ground and surface water resource that will lead water quality to degrade. » Stormwater must be diverted in a manner that it follow the drainage contours for water to flow easily 	<p>for both the construction and operation phases are included in Chapter 2 of the EIA report. Agreements for the sole use of the borehole have been finalised between the developer and the landowner. The relevant water use authorisation will be obtained.</p> <p>The applicant will promote water conservation throughout the life time of the facility through the conservation of sensitive water features located within the project site that have been avoided by the optimised facility layout (Appendix K)</p> <p>Sanitation on-site during the construction phase will be undertaken as per the requirements included within the project EMPr (Appendix J).</p> <p>All hazardous equipment and materials will be stored on concrete lined surfaces with bund walls to avoid spillages into the environment, ground and surface water resources. Appropriate mitigation measures to ensure compliance to the requirement have been included in the EMPr (Appendix J).</p> <p>A stormwater management plan has been included in the as Appendix H of the EMPr (Appendix J of the EIA report). This plan is required to be updated once the final engineering design is available.</p>

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		<p>in order to avoid water flooding on the surface during rainy seasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » All the general waste generated during construction should be disposed of at a permitted waste landfill site. » It should be clearly indicated how is the water for cleaning solar panels will be disposed of. » Water use authorisation should be obtained in terms of section 21(g) of the NWA Act, (Act 36 of 1998). 	<p>All general waste generated during the construction of the solar farm will be disposed of in permitted landfill sites as per the recommendations included in the EMPr (Appendix J).</p> <p>Water used for the cleaning of PV panels will be disposed of in a responsible environmental manner that will not have an effect on any natural features. Refer to the EMPr (Appendix J) for more detail.</p>

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DEA COMMENTS			
4.	Muhammad Essop National Department of Environmental Affairs Email: 24 August 2016	You are reminded to provide the Department with an electronic copy (CD) of the full version of the Application Form and Annexures upon submission of the Final Report if you did not provide it to the Department upon lodging your application for Environmental Authorisation. Ignore if you did include it on the CD submitted with your Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Report.	An electronic copy (CD) of the Application form is included on the CD containing the Final Scoping report was submitted to the DEA.
5.		Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014 this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.	The requirement to meet the prescribed time-frames and the consequences of not doing so are noted.
6.	Mmamohale Kabasa DEA Case Officer National Department of Environmental Affairs Email: 21 September 2016	The Department has the following comments on the application: i. You are further reminded that all previous comments on the application must be considered as part of this application. ii. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. iii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an	i. All previous comments on the application have been considered and are addressed in comment number 1 and 2 above. ii. All relevant activities applied for are specific and can be linked to the development of the Orkney Solar Farm. iii. The activities applied for in the application match the activities included in the Final Scoping report. The most recent application template was utilised for the compilation of the application form.

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		<p>amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.</p> <p>iv. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including the department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p> <p>v. A legible newspaper advert to show proof of the newspaper advert for this draft SR must be included in the final SR.</p> <p>vi. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development that was submitted as part of the previous application that lapsed. The C&R report</p>	<p>iv. All issues and comments received during the review period of the Scoping report from registered I&APs and the relevant organs of state are addressed where applicable within the Final Scoping report and Appendix C of the Final Scoping report. Proof of correspondence with stakeholders is included in Appendix C of the Final Scoping report. The Public Participation Process has been undertaken in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations and the process followed is described in Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2.</p> <p>v. A legible newspaper advert illustrating the review period of the Scoping report is included in Appendix C2 of the Final Scoping report.</p> <p>vi. The comments and responses (C&R) report has been updated with all comments received for the project to date. The C&R report format has been amended to match the format included in Annexure 1 of the comments letter. This is a new application form. No application form for the Orkney Solar Farm has previously lapsed.</p> <p>vii. A description of feasible alternatives is included in Chapter 2 Section 2.5 of the Final Scoping report. The advantages and</p>

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		<p>format must be in table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.</p> <p>vii. Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 1 (2)(e) and (3)(1)(h)(i) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1 of GN R.982 of 2014.</p> <p>viii. It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the EIAR process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of GN R. 985 Activities 4(e)(i)(bb)(ee), 12(a)(i)(ii); and 14(xii)(a)(c)(i)(bb)(ff). Written comments must be obtained and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical presentation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.</p> <p>ix. The following Activities applied for may trigger Section 19; S21(c) and (i) of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998; GN R.983 Activities 12(xii)(a)(c), 19((i); GN R.985 Activity 14(xii)(a)(c)(i)(bb)(ff).</p>	<p>disadvantages of the development on the environment is included in Chapter 2 Section 2.2 of the Final Scoping report.</p> <p>viii. The relevant authorities have been notified of the EIA process for the Orkney Solar Farm, as well as the availability of the Scoping report for review. No written or verbal comments have been received to date from the relevant authorities regarding the matter. A map of the project site indicating its location within the Terrestrial CBA has been included in Chapter 4 as Figure 4.9.</p> <p>ix. The project is still in Scoping phase and as such a layout for the development footprint is not yet available. Once the layout is finalised by the developer for assessment, it will be possible to determine the need for the surface hydrological assessment as per the listed activities. Comments from the DWS will be requested as required.</p> <p>x. An Avifaunal Assessment will be undertaken to determine the impacts of the Orkney Solar Farm and associated infrastructure on the avifauna of the area in accordance with the Plan of Study for EIA included in Chapter 7 of the Final Scoping report.</p>

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		<p>The EAP is advised to solicit comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). Mitigation measures for the proposed development must be informed by and comply with all relevant guidelines by the DWS. Further, the EAP is advised to conduct a surface hydrological assessment to determine the impacts on any hydrological features on the property.</p> <p>x. An avifaunal assessment must be conducted to determine the impacts that the proposed activity (including the power line) may have on avifauna.</p> <p>xi. The avifaunal assessment must describe the impact risk index to avifaunal species utilising the property posed by the proposed development and practical mitigation measures must be proposed and included in the EMPr.</p> <p>xii. All possible faunal impacts must be identified and assessed to determine the impacts that the proposed activity may have on fauna.</p> <p>xiii. Should the appointed specialist specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <p>xiv. The socio-economic assessment must indicate, describe and rate the competing land uses in the area, including the proposed project.</p>	<p>xi. The Avifaunal Assessment will describe the impacts and risks associated with the proposed project to avifaunal species within the area. Practical and appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended in the Avifaunal Assessment and the EMPr of the Orkney Solar Farm.</p> <p>xii. All possible faunal impacts will be described and assessed in the Ecological Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the EIA phase.</p> <p>xiii. Comment noted. Should contradicting recommendation be recommended by specialists, the EAP will indicate the most reasonable recommendation and provide defensible reasons. If required, further advice from the EAP will be provided.</p> <p>xiv. The Social Impact Assessment to be undertaken as part of the EIA phase will consider describe and rate the competing land uses in the area, including the development of the Orkney Solar Farm.</p> <p>xv. Peer review letters including the required information for the Social Scoping Report and the Soil, Land Use, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential Scoping Report have been included as Appendix H(a) and Appendix</p>

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		<p>xv. Where specialist studies are conducted in-house or by a specialist other than a suitably qualified specialist in the relevant field, such specialist reports must be peer reviewed by a suitably qualified external specialist in the relevant field. The terms of reference for the peer review must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A CV clearly showing the expertise of the peer reviewer; » Acceptability of the terms of reference; » Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable; » Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence); » Discuss the suitability of the mitigation measures and recommendations; » Identify any short comings mitigation measures to address the short comings; » Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature; » Indicate whether a site-inspection was carried out as part of the peer review; and » Indicate whether the article is well-written and easy to understand. <p>xvi. Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and</p>	<p>I(a) of the Final Scoping report. CVs of the peer reviewers are included in Appendix A of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>xvi. Potential cumulative impacts are identified within Chapter 5, Table 5.4 of the Final Scoping Report. A refined cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase for the Orkney Solar Farm. This assessment will provide more detail of the cumulative impacts associated with the development.</p> <p>xvii. A signed EAP affirmation has been included in Appendix J of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>xviii. The EAP affirmation included in Appendix J of the Final Scoping report has been signed by a commissioner of oaths.</p> <p>xix. The details of the EAP who prepared the report and the expertise of the EAP are included in Chapter 1, Section 1.4 and Appendix A of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>xx. The Final Scoping report submitted to the DEA complies with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p> <p>xxi. The requirement to meet the prescribed timeframes and the consequences of not doing so are noted.</p>

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		<p>assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. » Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this report. » The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. » A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. <p>xvii. In terms of Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the report must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » the correctness of the information provided in the reports; 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; » the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; » any information provided by the EAP to I&APs; and » responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by I&APs. <p>xviii. The affirmation of oath by the EAP must be witnessed and signed by a commissioner of oaths.</p> <p>xix. In accordance with Appendix 1 (3)(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of (i) the EAP who prepared the report; and the expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment procedures must be submitted.</p> <p>xx. You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p> <p>xxi. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless and extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	

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		You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.	
SAHRA INTERIM COMMENTS			
7.	<p>Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer</p> <p>South African Heritage Resources Agency</p> <p>Letter: 21 September 2016</p>	<p>SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit endorses the recommendations given in the AIA and the PIA for the proposed Orkney Solar Farm. The following recommendations must be adhered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A full Heritage Impact Assessment must be conducted during the EIA phase which must include a comprehensive field survey of the development footprint; ii. The HIA must also take into consideration the results of the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA); iii. Any comments made during public consultation relating to heritage resources should be reflected in the HIA report; iv. In accordance with Section 38(2)b of the NHRA (no 25 of 1999), SAHRA APM waives the requirement for any further palaeontological assessment based on the results presented in the aforementioned desktop assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken during the EIA Phase of the proposed Orkney Solar Farm. The assessment will include a comprehensive field survey of the development footprint and identify impacts associated with the development on any archaeological resources present. ii. The HIA will consider the results of the Visual Impact Assessment to be undertaken in the EIA phase. iii. Any comments raised during the Public Participation Process regarding the heritage resources of the area will be included in the HIA report. No comments or issues have been raised in this regard to date. iv. Comment noted.

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I&AP REGISTRATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS			
8.	<p>Karien du Toit Director</p> <p>Kagiso Engineering (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Reply Form: 15 February 2016</p>	<p>Please register me as an I&AP. We would like to help our community more and get involved with all projects at hand to resolve problem areas in a much more efficient and professional manner, with all success that this will work for the community. We would like to see the structure in this project and what it is containing on site.</p>	<p>Karien du Toit has been registered as an I&AP on the project's database. Details regarding the project are available in the Scoping Report which was circulated to registered I&APs at the commencement of the 30-day review period.</p>
9.	<p>Ian du Toit Site Manager</p> <p>APJ Automation</p> <p>Reply Form: 15 February 2016</p>	<p>APJ Automation are eager to use our skills as electrical company and take this project without any safety issues and successfully complete every task given to us. We strive to be successful in our job and to have a very good relationship with all our workers and the client. If possible we would like to see more about the project itself, and how the structure is set apart.</p>	<p>Ian du Toit has been registered as an I&AP on the project's database. Details regarding the project are available in the Scoping Report which was circulated to registered I&APs at the commencement of the 30-day review period.</p>
10	<p>Leticia Naid Project Manager</p> <p>South African Local Government Association</p> <p>Issue raised at Orkney- Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016</p>	<p>You are currently in the Scoping Phase of the EIA. How do you intend to make the information regarding the development available in a manner that the public can understand for example the impact of the development?</p>	<p>A public participation process forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process being undertaken by Savannah Environmental, and information will be presented to the community and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) through written correspondence, advertisements in local newspapers, focus group meetings and public meetings. Presentations and discussions at the meetings held will explain the project and the potential for environmental impact and benefit, and allow for interaction where clarity is required. The</p>

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			potential impacts identified through the EIA process will be presented in the Scoping and EIA Reports which will be made available for 30-day review periods within which comments and inputs from the community and I&APs can be submitted.
11	Johnny Danxa LED Officer City of Matlosana Local Municipality Issue raised at Orkney- Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016	This will not be the last presentation or meeting on this topic. I want to also consider visiting the major townships in the area so that they can also be aware of this project and be involved. We can assist with the public participation in ensuring that the community members attend the meetings.	The EIA project team and developer will liaise with the City of Matlosana Local Municipality in order to establish a relationship with the Municipality in the early phase of the project so that the community is informed of and involved in this process from the outset. Opportunities for consultation with I&APs will be provided during the Scoping and EIA Phases of the project.
12	Carmen Barends Regional Content Researcher Private Projects Lead 2 Business Email: 22 August 2016	Please could I be registered as an interested and affected party for this Project?	Carmen Barends has been registered as an I&AP on the project's database.
13	Karien Du Toit Director - Kagiso Engineering	Thank you for your response via email concerning the EIA Process.	Karien Du Toit and Ian Du Toit were registered as I&APs on the project's database.

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	<p>APJ Automation Group</p> <p>Email: 22 August 2016</p>	<p>Please receive two registration/comment sheets for the APJ Automation group. First is for Kagiso Engineering and second for APJ Automation itself.</p>	
14	<p>Joyce Mahlangu</p> <p>APJ Automation Group</p> <p>Reply Form: 23 August 2016</p>	<p>Please register us as I&APs for this project.</p>	<p>Joyce Mahlangu has been registered as an I&AP on the projects database.</p>
15	<p>Yvonne Oosthuizen Administrative Officer</p> <p>Openserve (on behalf of Telkom)</p> <p>Email: 25 August 2016</p>	<p>Kindly note that I am the wayleave spoc for all incoming wayleaves. Kindly send your applications for the attached area's to me (see last columns for wayleave names). Attached DSSU's we currently cover. The list might change, but I will keep you updated.</p>	<p>Yvonne Oosthuizen has been registered as an I&AP on the project's database.</p>
16	<p>Dr Kotie Pienaar Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Telephonic Interview: 20 September 2016</p>	<p>How will the project affect me?</p>	<p>The impact of the project is being considered as a whole by specialists in different fields, taking into consideration the surrounding areas of the project site. The most likely impact on surrounding landowners will be from a visual perspective. Detailed specialist studies considering all aspects of the environment will be undertaken in the EIA phase in order to assess the impacts of the development.</p>

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			In the event of significant impacts being identified, appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed in order to reduce the impacts to acceptable levels.
17		Is there going to be a camp for the construction workers?	No, there will not be a man camp associated with the project as majority of the employees will be sourced locally from the surrounding communities, including the town of Orkney. The workers will be transported to and from the construction site on a daily basis.
18		When will construction start?	The project is still in a very early planning stage. The Scoping Phase is the beginning of the EIA process and the entire process will take up to 300 days to be completed. After the completion of the EIA process and the granting of the Environmental Authorisation by the National Department of Environmental Affairs the project is still to be bid into the REIPPP programme which is undertaken by the Department of Energy. If awarded preferred bidder status, then only can the project be constructed and operated. All other relevant permits will also need to be in place before commencement.
19		The construction phase is my biggest concern as safety and security will be an issue. I keep cattle and there will be the potential for loss. Responsibility will have to be taken for the loss of cattle.	During the construction and operation phases of the Orkney Solar Farm security measures will be implemented in order to ensure that there will be no adverse impact on the security and safety of the community members and livestock as a result of the project. These measures will form part of the

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			Environmental Management Programme which will be compiled as part of the EIA phase.
20		The holiday estate next to my property will be concerned about the visual appearance of the development.	The social impact assessment consultant and visual specialist will investigate and consult with the relevant people regarding the holiday estate to determine the impact of the Orkney Solar Farm on the establishment.
21		I have no problem with the project.	Comment noted. No response required.
22	Japie Grobler Adjacent Landowner Focus Group Meeting: 19 September 2016	I have no issues or concerns to raise. The development can go-ahead. It is better that there are people present within the area.	Comment noted. People will be present throughout the entire life cycle of the project which will include a 12-18 month construction period and a 20-25 year operation period.
23	Jimmy Lonergan Tenant on adjacent property Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	Where exactly will this project be located?	At this stage of the EIA process the exact location of the project within the proposed project site is not defined. This will only be determined after the Scoping Phase has been completed and a layout has been provided by the applicant. This is due to the requirement to avoid identified sensitive areas within the site as far as possible.
24		The developer will have to fence the project site in order to avoid our cattle from moving into the facility. And will the development have an impact on my livestock?	Comment noted. Mitigation measures will be implemented during construction and operation in terms of the safety and security of the community members and livestock in the area in order to ensure that there will not be an adverse impacts as a result of the project. The development site will be fenced.

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25		Appropriate mitigation measures are required for fires within the area as the area is quite windy. We do not want to find ourselves with burnt farms.	Mitigation measures will be included in the Environmental Management Programme of the project to ensure the management of fires.
26		I do not have any issues with the proposed project.	Comment noted. No response required.
27		This area already has bad visual outlook due to mine dumps in the area. Hence solar arrays will not make much of a difference. We are used to the disturbed outlook.	Comment noted. No response required.
28	Johannes Meyer Affected Landowner	My only concern is water and sewage. We have identified areas within the property for these services.	Comment noted. The EIA phase will consider the facility layout including all associated infrastructure (i.e. water pipeline and sewage facilities, if required).
29	Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	We keep cattle, sheep and game. There is no cultivation taking place in this area as a result of the severely dry climate.	Comment noted. No response required.
30		I'm not sure where the facility will be located, but I think the best area would be the northern portion of the project site, located in close proximity to the main gate of the farm. This area is also located in close proximity to the existing Eskom Substation (Dean Traction 132kV Substation)	Comment noted. The location of the facility will be informed by the environmental sensitivities identified on the site as well as technical requirements.
31		Existing infrastructure that must be considered is the existing Eskom power lines and the Telkom line located in close proximity to the main gate of the farm.	Comment noted. No response required.
32		The Orkney Solar Farm can source water from me as I have enough water on the farm. I have a pump that is utilised to extract water from the Vaal River. No municipal water is being used.	Comment noted.

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33		We own a security company. We also offer building and other maintenance services. Can the developer also consider us when they start with construction?	Comment noted. The applicant has been informed of the request.
34	Tshowe Joel Affected Property Farm worker Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	Will the development be located within the farm?	Yes, the entire farm is considered as the project site during the scoping study, and then within the broader project site the development will be placed considering identified environmental sensitivities and technical aspects.
35		Mr Meyer said he will own the farm, so I don't foresee any issues in terms of the development. As long as we continue to work here I am ok.	Comment noted. No response required.
36		Will the solar farm give us piece jobs when we are not working?	Employment opportunities available would depend on the developer, the EPC contractor and Mr. Meyer.
37	MA Khuzwayo City of Matlosana Local Municipality: Deputy Director of Planning	There are people that should be involved in this process that are not in this meeting. Some of them I had invited them, I am not sure if they are running late or they made a mistake with dates and time.	Comment noted. All key stakeholders associated and considered to be affected by the project have been registered. If there are additional I&APs that need to be registered, kindly provide their contact details.
38	Key Stakeholders Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	What positive role can we as a municipality play?	The support of the municipality will be helpful in terms of involving the relevant community members in the project development process.
39		You also need to get hold of the Department of Spatial Development Framework and inform them about the project, so they take it into consideration in their plans.	Comment noted. The Department of Spatial Development Framework will be notified of the project and consulted with throughout the EIA process going forward.
40		Please send me the presentation as I would like to share it with the council at the first council meeting and also share	Comment noted. The meeting presentation was sent to MA Khuzwayo on 03 October 2016 via email. The

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		it with the community because without the community's support it will be difficult to get approval for the project. I will also forward the presentation to all the relevant departments, so we get an official comment about the state of affairs regarding provision of basic services.	proof of correspondence is included in Appendix C of the Final Scoping Report.
41		The Tau Lekoa mine was also invited to this meeting. They should be involved as they are affected by the proposed development. You will need to get hold of Chopper.	The mine has been notified about the proposed project. Their Head Office is however situated in Beijing. No comments have been submitted by them to date. The EIA team has a contact person for the mine (Mr. Jimmy Lonergan). He will be consulted throughout the EIA process.
42	Chris Bester City of Matlosana Local Municipality - Ward 28	From our side we will need to set-up a meeting with the farming community to hear if the project will be a problem for them.	Comment noted. Follow up with Mr Bester will be undertaken to obtain feedback on this engagement.
43	Ward Councillor Key Stakeholders Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	If the project goes to the community everyone starts calling and asking for a job or contract to provide goods or services.	The developer does not want to raise expectations in the community as the project is still in the planning phase. The EIA phase still needs to be completed and the Environmental Authorisation granted. After the Environmental Authorisation is granted the project would need to be granted preferred bidder status by the Department of Energy for the development to commence.
44		Mining tunnels from the Tau Lekoa mine are underground, I do not think solar panels will have an effect, but I think the Department of Agriculture should be contacted as they might have an issue with the project being in a farming	Comment noted. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have been registered on the project database and have been notified of the project and the availability of the Scoping report for

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		community. However, the area is primarily used for cattle farming.	review. Proof of consultation is included in Appendix C.
45		You need to contact the landowner who is about 15km from the proposed site as they run a big Rhino farm. We don't want to speak on their behalf, they might be affected by the development.	Comment noted. The relevant people will be contacted during the course of the EIA process to ensure that they are consulted and informed of the project.
46		I think community members will benefit from this project. Many of our people are currently unemployed due to challenges and a reduction within the mining sector. There are qualified people in the community, including trained welders with certificates and others that have been involved in the mining sector.	Comment noted. No response required.
47		When the need arises for employment I can contact my ward committee to inform the communities of the available opportunities. Through a screening process and according to the available skills, the correct workers can be employed. I just need to emphasise that local people should be acknowledged throughout the project. When it comes to job opportunities, the locals should be considered first. Local companies should also be used to supply products except where specialised equipment and products are needed. We have big steel companies that can be supply a lot of construction material.	Comment noted. It is required by the Department of Energy that projects utilise local people and local companies as possible in the construction of the facility.
48		If local people are used, safety and security will not be an issue as we know our people and can control them.	Comment noted. No response required.

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49		Increased traffic will not be an issue as people in this area are used to big trucks that transport machinery and equipment due to the strong mining sector within the area. The important thing is for the delivery vehicles to make use the main roads within the area.	Comment noted. No response required.
50		This project is important for our people and will provide opportunities for growth and upliftment in the communities.	Comment noted. No response required.
51	Ben Ntopane Vryntaoza Resources: Director Key Stakeholders Focus Group Meeting: 08 September 2016	Does the project fall within the boundary of the mine or not? I think the Department of Mineral Resources should also be involved.	The boundaries of the mine end at the farm Goedgenoeg, which is located directly adjacent to the east of the project site. Therefore, the affected properties fall outside of the mining boundary. The Department of Mineral Resources have been notified of the proposed project and were informed of the review period of the Scoping report. Proof of notification is included in Appendix C of the Scoping report.
IMPACTS TO ESKOM GRID INFRASTRUCTURE			
52	John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management	Please find attached Eskom requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure. The project does not seem to have any impact on existing Eskom Transmission infrastructure.	The project does not impact on Eskom Transmission infrastructure. Eskom's requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure have been noted and sent to the Project Developer for consideration.
53	Land Development Eskom Email: 18 January 2016	I am still investigating the Mercury – Ferrum 400kV power line route to determine if this project may impact on that. The line has been constructed but is not yet showing up on my system, thus I need some more investigation to confirm. I will refer back to you.	Following further consultation with Eskom, it was confirmed that the Project does not conflict with the planned Mercury – Ferrum 400kV power line (refer to email correspondence dated 15 July 2016 in Appendix C6 and Appendix C8).

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM ORGANS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS			
54	<p>Ellis Thebe Environmental Officer Control: Development Impact Management</p> <p>North West Province Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development</p> <p>Letter: 25 January 2016</p>	<p>The Department has received the request to comment on the Environmental Impact Assessment Process on 14 January 2016.</p> <p>Please note that the request has been assigned to Mr. Sammy Mabula, Potchefstroom Office. This file reference number is NWP/DEA/65/2015. Kindly quote this reference number and the name of the officer it has been assigned to in any future correspondence in respect of the application including notification to be used for public participation. You are requested to submit Draft hard copy to the case officer.</p>	<p>Acknowledgment noted. Mr Sammy Mabula has been registered as a commenting authority on the project's database.</p>
55	<p>Melvin Rampedi Manager – Local Economic Development</p> <p>Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality</p> <p>Email: 23 August 2016</p>	<p>Thanks for the email. It is noted and will certainly follow up.</p>	<p>Acknowledgment noted. No further correspondence was received at the time of submitting this report.</p>
56	<p>NB De Lange Land Use and Soil Management</p>	<p>This serves as a notice of receipt and confirms that your application has been captured in our electronic AgriLand tracking and management system. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line AgriLand application facility in future.</p>	<p>Acknowledgment noted, no response required.</p>

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	<p>Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries</p> <p>Letter: 25 August 2016</p>	<p>Detail of your application as captured: TYPE EIA YOUR REFERENCE WOLVEHUIS 114 Description WOLVEHUIS 114 (PTN 7 & 21) DATED 2016/08/25 Please use the following reference number in all enquiries: AGRILAND REFERENCE NUMBER; 2016_08_0147</p>	
57	<p>Lizell Stroh Obstacle Specialist</p> <p>South African Civil Aviation Authority</p> <p>Email: 15 September 2016</p>	<p>Your enquiry regarding approval from the SACAA with regard to PV farms refers.</p> <p>There is a SACAA process whereby permission is applied for with obstacles which could pose an aviation hazard. More information can be obtained at http://www.caa.co.za. Click on information for industry 'Obstacles' on the LHS. Forms, Part 139-27 and submit on the form itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed development site including the proposed overhead electric power line route that will evacuate the generated power to the national grid. • Also indicate the highest structure of the project & the Overhead electric power transmission line. • Note that there may be other wind farms and PV farms in the area. Unique names are preferable. • Please always use the proposed PV farm name in the Subject box when corresponding via email with this office and indicate the name & address which should appear on the CAA approval/decline letter. 	<p>The request was sent to the applicant for consideration and action.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an assessment fee of R770 per application. • For billing purposes: company name VAT nr. and postal details. <p>Kindly ensure that all the above data is forwarded. Incomplete data causes unnecessary delays.</p>	
NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT			
58	<p>Johan van Rooyen Community Member</p> <p>Issue raised at Orkney-Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016</p>	<p>Why was the greater Orkney area and the proposed site chosen for the development of the Orkney Solar Farm?</p>	<p>The project site proposed for the development has been identified as a feasible location for the construction and operation of a solar energy facility by the project developers. The Orkney area has sufficient grid infrastructure and capacity to accommodate the evacuation of electricity into the national grid. The site is deemed suitable for the development as the topography of the site is relatively flat making it easy to construct the facility and establish the connection into the grid. The landowner has agreed to lease a portion of the farm for the development to the developer. It is understood that economic growth and development will be welcomed in the City of Matlosana Local Municipality. Therefore, the developer believes that the development of the Orkney Solar Farm will contribute to the regeneration of the town of Orkney and the City of Matlosana Local Municipality.</p> <p>In addition, the site is considered to be suitable for a development of this nature because the project is</p>

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			located in close proximity to a demand centre, i.e. the town of Orkney, which reduces the distance of which the electricity is to be transported and reduces the loss of electricity.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS			
59	<p>Johnny Danxa LED Officer</p> <p>City of Matlosana Local Municipality</p> <p>Issue raised at Orkney-Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016</p>	Will the communities be the ones to identify the projects within which there will be investment?	The municipal manager's office will be requested to nominate trustees that will form a community trust which will benefit from the solar project. The role of the trustees will be to assist with the decision-making process regarding the identification and implementation of socio-economic development projects which would benefit the broader community. An adjudication process will also take place within which it will be determined who the most suitable parties are to receive the investments and how much investment will be granted.
60	<p>Jack Lebogang</p> <p>North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development</p> <p>Issue raised at Orkney-Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016</p>	How many jobs will be created by the proposed development?	During the construction phase approximately 300-400 temporary jobs will be created for the 12-18-month construction period. Approximately 15-25 permanent jobs will be created for the 20-25-year operation period. It is planned that workers will be sourced from the local communities, and not internationally.

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61	<p>Leticia Naid Project Manager</p> <p>South African Local Government Association</p> <p>Issue raised at Orkney- Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016</p>	<p>Your visit and attendance to the meeting today is quite timely considering that we are talking about the regeneration of the town. And as mentioned earlier, that if your project is awarded it will be secure for a period of at least 20 years, and then 5 years for decommissioning, in the event that the license is not renewed. This is the same as mining companies that also have a lifespan. What the town regeneration approach brings to the table is to determine how best we can use allies that the IPP contributions will create in terms of sustainable development, meaning that we should look at how to diversify the local economies so that it is not only dependent on the solar power. If the project is not awarded, then we are back to square one. So what this process says is that there needs to be a focused approach where it is not about projects but it is about having a vision of the town in terms of who do we want to be as a town looking forward 15 years from now and what is necessary for us to get there. There are two streams for funding including Enterprise Development and Socio-Economic Development, ideally the latter should be for programmes that are for the greater good for the economy and the people and not on individual ideas. But I am hoping that when we have the next session that you will also be able to participate because we are not going to plan anything for the people here, they need to decide for themselves the kind of locality that they would like to have which is going to take some time. Maybe by the time you</p>	<p>For the project to receive approval from the Minister of Energy, it needs something special included in the bid document that will swing the project in favour of the approval. Through the REIPPP Programme, the project will be competing with other projects in the country, and it would be beneficial if something different and innovative were to be implemented in Orkney. The Orkney-Kanana Regeneration Programme presents a fantastic opportunity to adopt this solar energy development process as one of the anchors of the regeneration programme. If the Orkney Solar Farm is awarded preferred bidder status, the Project Developer would be in the position to assist the local municipality to fund socio-economic development initiatives.</p>

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		are set up there is a very clear business plan for implementation on the regeneration of the town of Orkney. This is an opportunity that I am seeing and hopefully when the residents of Orkney and Kanana work on their town assessments and town strategy that they will also see this as an opportunity.	
IMPACTS TO INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY			
62	Chris Schutte Mvelaphande Trading on behalf of Telkom SA Email: 22 August 2016	Please provide us with sketches/maps that show the stand numbers so that we can indicate our infrastructure on it.	A kmz file was emailed to Chris Schutte on 23 August 2016. It was noted that the development footprint of the solar farm has not been defined and that this information would be provided in the EIA phase of the project.
GENERAL			
63	Tina Eloff Community Member Issue raised at Orkney- Kanana Community Public Meeting held on 27 January 2016	Which areas will be supplied with electricity by the Orkney Solar Farm?	The generated electricity will not be supplied to a specific area. The generated electricity will be sold to Eskom as per a Power Purchase Agreement and the Electricity Regulation Act (Act 4 of 2006) of South Africa. The Act states that if more than one megawatt of electricity is generated it must be supplied to Eskom, as Eskom is the only entity within South Africa that can buy electricity. There is an agreement at a national level that Eskom will purchase electricity generated by Independent Power Producers (IPP). IPPs are responsible for developing the solar energy facility which generates the electricity and is evacuated into the national grid.

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			Eskom in turn, distributes the electricity where it is required.